



## News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &  
Thunder Basin National Grassland  
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>

**Contact:** Diann Ritschard, (970) 870-2187

### **Ski area temporarily closed; Routt National Forest still mostly snowed in**

**(Steamboat Springs, CO – June 9, 2011)** Due to melting snow and saturated conditions, the Steamboat Ski Area is closed to all public access until its scheduled summer opening on Wednesday, June 15. Mud slides and ground slumping have been experienced on five trails on the lower mountain, including a large area impacted on Vertigo. The resort is working with the US Forest Service as well as hydrology and soil experts to monitor terrain as it continues to dry out over the coming week. A determination on Opening Day activities will be made early next week; however, it is anticipated that gondola rides, restricted mountain biking and hiking as well as several food and beverage outlets will welcome summer guests.

Most Routt National Forest roads and trails around Steamboat Springs are closed because snow remains on the ground. "We are delaying opening roads for public safety due to the late snowmelt, excessive runoff, mudslides and high potential for culvert washouts, said recreation manager Kent Foster. "We're monitoring road status and will open gates and recreation sites as soon as we can."

The public is asked to respect the road closures and not endanger themselves or cause road damage by driving around gates, barricades or through snowbanks.

The best way to get the most current information about recreation opportunities is to call the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District at 970-870-2299. There will likely be several extended road closures due to culverts washing out, landslides and roads washed out.

Work to remove beetle-killed trees from along roads and trails will continue this summer. These activities will take place on many areas of the forest, including the ski areas. The Forest Service does not have the exact timing when these logging operations will take place since it depends on weather, contractors and other factors. Beginning June 15, a Hotline (970-870-2410) will be activated for road closures for logging operations only.

Falling trees are always a hazard when traveling in the forests. Please be aware of your surroundings. Avoid dense patches of dead trees. They can fall without warning. Forests visitors are responsible for their own safety.

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